

I am very concerned about the proposed Broadcast Flag Mandate. Passage of this act will hurt the freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of the United States while having no real benefit to the Content Providers other than control. In the early 1980s, the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) fought consumer availability of the Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) arguing that the VCR would ruin their industry due to copyright infringement and Piracy. At this time, the average VCR movie tape was around \$80.00. After it was ruled that the VCR had substantial non-infringing uses and therefore was legal, the MPAA companies adapted to the technology and made a fortune. Today I can buy a copy of a movie for VCR for under \$20.00 (and in many cases under \$10.00) at Wal Mart or any other major retailer. Major studios such as Disney produce direct to video movies and an entire industry, the Video Rental Store (such as Blockbuster) has evolved.

Content Providers such as the MPAA is fighting new technology with this new Broadcast Flag Mandate fearing loss of revenue while ignoring the past. Digital Television already faces a hard sell in the marketplace, why make it less attractive than it is now. I do not want to lose the rights that I have now. If I cannot be home to watch a Television Program, I can record it for later viewing. Why should this be made a Criminal Act because the Television Industry is scared.

The Public is already beginning to lose faith in the Copyright System due to legislation such as the Copyright Extension Act (popularly known as the "Sonny Bono Act") and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). Please put a stop to this slippery slope and shelve the Broadcast Flag Mandate. The Content Industry, the Electronics Industry, and the Computer Industry will survive (and prosper) without it.

Thank You,

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